



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
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FATAL FIRE AT FORT CAMPBELL WAS ARSON

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as CID, jointly announced today that the investigation of the May 29, 2007 fire that occurred at 4137-D Dixie Road, Fort Campbell, Ky., was arson.

Investigators from the ATF Bowling Green Field Office, Fort Campbell's CID Detachment and the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's office, made a thorough examination of the scene and eliminated all accidental and natural causes of the fire. Sufficient evidence was recovered during the crime scene investigation to allow investigators to determine the fire was incendiary in nature and intentionally set.

Tragically, the fire caused the deaths of 2-year-old Rebekah Smallwood and 9-year-old Samuel Fagan, who did not escape the blaze. Specialist Wayne Smallwood, 33, 626th Corps Support Battalion and his wife, Billi-Jo Lee Smallwood, 32, suffered injuries escaping the fire. The Smallwood's infant daughter, Nevaeh, escaped without injury.

Special Agent in Charge, Paul J. Vido of the ATF Louisville Field Division said that the "U.S. Army CID and ATF investigators are combining their efforts and are aggressively following up on all leads surrounding this violent crime. The fact that this criminal act caused the death of two innocent children of an Army family during a time of war makes it even more heart wrenching and appalling."

Vido went on to say, "The work at the crime scene is finished, however our investigation is not over. We are confident that the responsible individual or individuals will be brought to justice."

Although the investigation has determined that this fire was arson, details about the origin and cause of the fire and the status of the on-going investigation are currently not being released. Based on the seriousness of the incident and the resulting loss of life, investigators are requesting anyone with information about this arson contact Fort Campbell's 31st Military Police Detachment (CID) at (270) 798-3000 or (270) 798-9402, Military Police at (270) 798-7111 (24 hours), or the ATF at (800) ATF-800-3855.

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